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DARK HORSE
COMICS
DARK HORSE COMICS
INTRODUCING X

DARK HORSE COMICS™

WHO IS X?
PART 1 OF 3
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PENCILLER: N. STEVEN HARRIS
INKER: DAN DAVIS
LETTERER: CLEM ROBINS
COLORIST: RACHELLE MENASHE

ROBOCOP:
INVASIONS · PART 3 OF 4
WRITER: STEVEN GRANT
PENCILLER: NICK GNAZZO
INKER: BRUCE PATTERSON
LETTERER: PAT OWSLEY
COLORIST: MATTHEW HOLLINGSWORTH

JAMES BOND:
LIGHT OF MY DEATH
PART 1 OF 4
WRITER: DAS PETROU
ARTIST: JOHN WATKISS
LETTERER: WOODROW PHOENIX
COLORIST: TREVOR GORING

STAR WARS:
TALES OF THE JEDI
PART 2 OF 3
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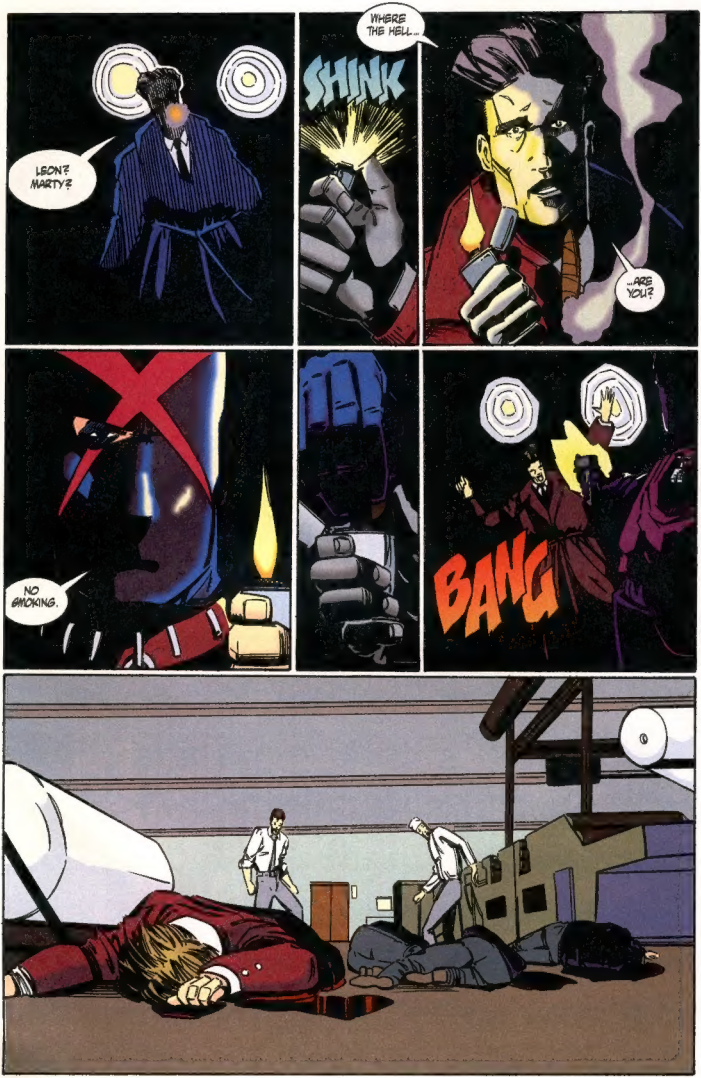
THE RAIN TENDED TO BACK UP THE SEWERS IN ARCADIA, AS LITTLE WAS DONE TO MAINTAIN THEIR EFFICIENCY.
WHEN IT RAINED HARD, ALL KINDS OF THINGS WOULD COME WASHING OUT ONTO THE STREETS.
TONIGHT, IT WAS RAINING VERY HARD.
WHO IS X?
PART 1
WE WANNA REGISTER A COMPLAINT! WHO'S IN CHARGE HERE?
N-NOW TAKE IT EASY. I'M MANAGING THE CITY DESK TONIGHT. WHAT SEEMS TO BE THE--PROBLEM'Z
WE GOT A PROBLEM WIT YER PAPER.
YOU CAN'T COME BARGING IN HERE LIKE THIS--
THE COMPLAINT DEPARTMENT WAS CLOSED--
SO NOW I'M TALKIN' TO YOU.
WHAT DO YOU CALL THIS?
CAR OVE
BY MONS
EYEWITN
REPORT GIAN
FIGURE ON
WATERFRONT
WATERFRO
PARK
DEDICATION
LARRY BRIGG
OPEN PHASE
OF PROJECT
SAUER CLEARED ON ALL COUNTS
WHA--HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?

THAT'S WHAT I'D LIKE TO KNOW.
IN FACT, I WANT TO KNOW RIGHT NOW.
UH...I'LL HAVE TO CHECK... WITH THE PRESS MEN.
WHY DON'T WE DO THAT TOGETHER?
SO, LEON, LET'S TALK TO THESE PRESS... MEN.
WHICH WAY?
UH...UH... THIS WAY.
LUDO

WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED WITH THIS, LLOYD?
GONNA HAVE TO SPEAK UP. WHO'S THIS GUY?
WHAT HAPPENED TO THIS PICTURE? THEY REALLY WANT TO KNOW.
DAMNED IF I KNOW. I DIDN'T WORK THE SHIFT FOR THE EVENING EDITION. WE'RE RUNNING TOMORROW'S EARLY EDITION NOW.
LOOKS LIKE SOMETHING HAPPENED TO THE PLATE.
HEY! NO SMOKING IN HERE!
SORRY.
GOT A PLACE I CAN PUT IT OUT?
SHINK
HEY! WHAT'RE YA...
I'M ONLY GOING TO ASK YOU THIS ONCE. IF I DON'T LIKE WHAT I HEAR ...WELL, I THINK YOU UNDERSTAND...
NOW, LLOYD, HOW DID THIS MARK GET ON MY FACE? WHO COULD DO THAT?
UH... I...
DAMMIT, WHAT HAPPENED TO THE LIGHTS?

EVERY-BODY TAKE IT EASY...
THE LIGHTS WILL BE ON IN A SECOND.
BANG
JESSUS! MARTY!
BANG
MR. SALIBA...
BANG
AAAAK


LEON? MARTY?
WHERE THE HELL...
SHINK
...ARE YOU?
NO SMOKING.
BANG

WHAT? LAST NIGHT?
AT THE PAPER?
YEAH, I SAW IT. SO DID EVERYONE ELSE IN TOWN. RIGHT ON THE DAWN FRONT PAGE.
FIRST JOHNSON AND NOW SAUER.
WHAT THE HELL ARE HE PAYING YOU FOR.. TO FIX PARKING TICKETS?
"I WANT TO KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON WITH THESE DAMN MARKS, AND I WANT TO KNOW BY TONIGHT!"
"I DON'T CARE HOW MANY MEN IT TAKES. SCREEN THE UNION AND OVERTIME! GET IT DONE!"
765
Briggs for Senate
BASTARD.
WHOA, SLOW DOWN A SEC, HARVEY. I WANT TO TAKE A LOOK...
...AT THIS.

Briggs for Senate
YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING ME...
SON OF A--! HARVEY, GET TO THE DAMN OFFICE!
DID YOU SEE THAT?
YES, SIR, I DID.
I THINK IT'S TIME I STARTED PLAYING HARDBALL.

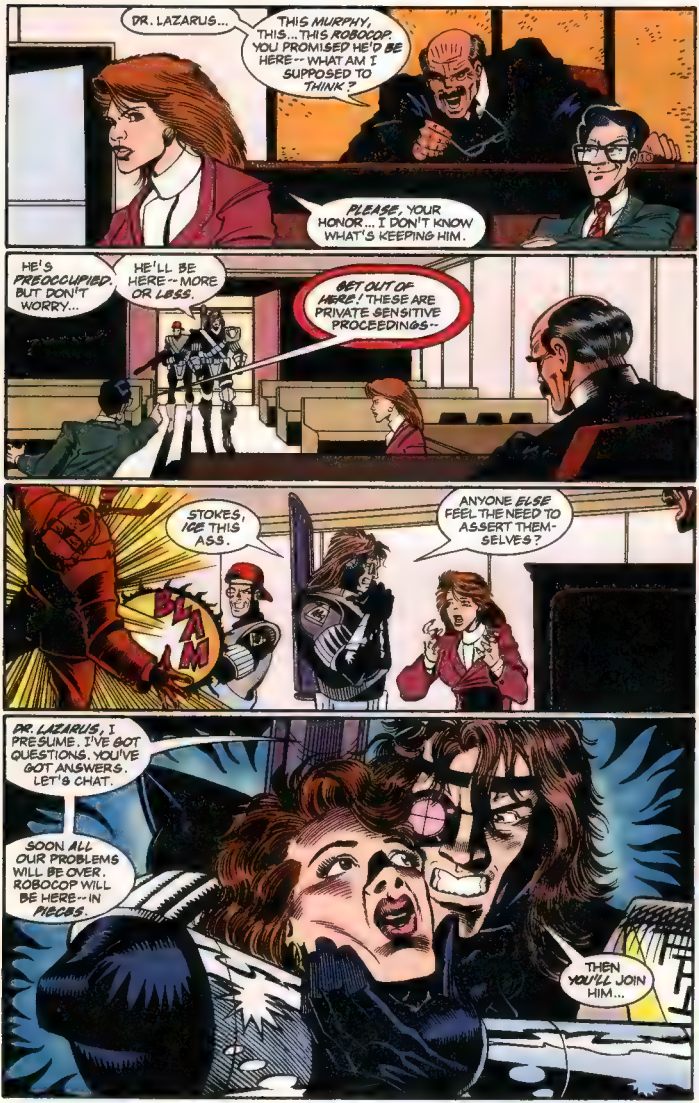
I DON'T WANT ANYBODY COMING TO THE TOP FLOOR.
YES, SIR, MR. BRIGGS.
BRIGGS, THOMPSON & LEVY
GOOD MORNING, MR. BRIGGS
GET ME THE POLICE COMMISSIONER ON THE PHONE, SHIRLEY.
SLAM
RING RIN...
IT'S COMMISSIONER ANDERSON ON LINE FOUR.
TOM, IT'S LARRY.
LARRY, HOW ARE YOU? HEAR ABOUT SAUER?
OF COURSE I DID, YOU IDIOT! WHY DO YOU THINK I'M CALLING?
FIRST AN X ON JOHNSON'S OFFICE BUILDING AND HE DIES. THEN...THE PAPER...AN X ON SAUER...AND HE'S DEAD. AND I JUST GAIN ONE!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, LARRY?
I SAW IT ON MY BILLBOARD ON ME! THE X!
CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE

DETROIT -- THE FUTURE.
THE MIGHTY CORPORATION O.C.P. HAS FALLEN. THE CITY IS LAWLESS, PENNILESS, CLINGING TO THE BAREST THREAD OF CIVILIZATION.
INTO THIS HELL HAS COME THE PHILADELPHIA POLICE -- THE RIZZOS -- TO INSTALL THEIR OWN TWISTED, PROFITABLE VERSION OF ORDER.
POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS
IN THEIR WAKE HAS COME COFFIN, MYSTERIOUS ENVOY OF A MYSTERIOUS MASTER --
FREEZE. YOU ARE TRESPASSING ON RESTRICTED PROPERTY. PLEASE SURRENDER YOUR WEAPONS.
YOU HAVE TEN SECONDS TO COMPLY.
-- NOW TEAMED WITH THE RIZZOS ON A MISSION TO SPELL THE END OF...
ROBOCOP

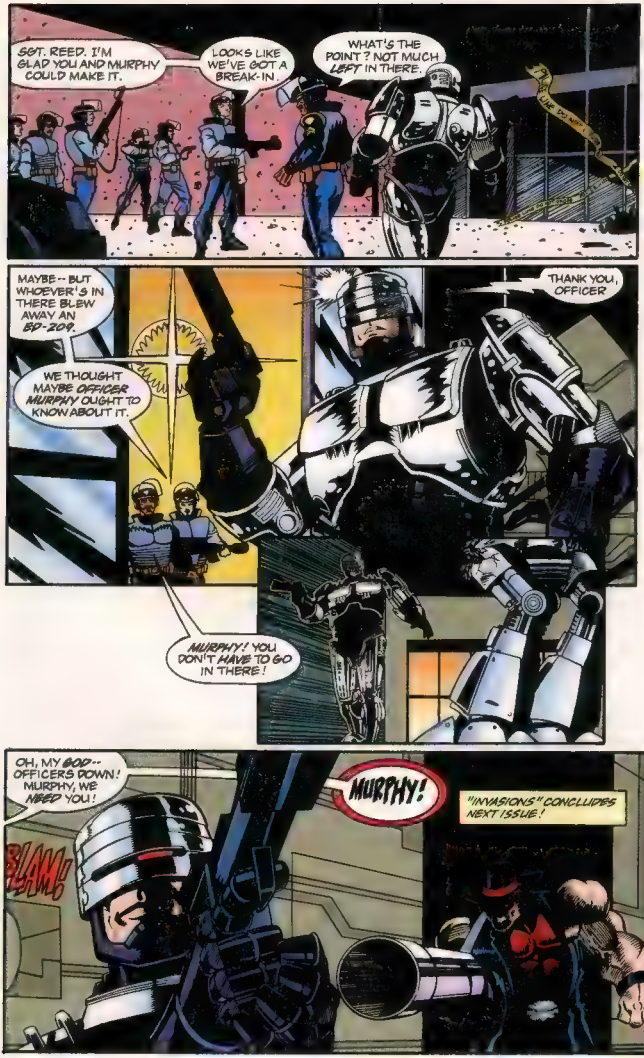
CHOOM!
DON'T PULL THAT CAR STUNT AGAIN, OKAY, MURPHY?
THE WAR CHEST IS ALMOST DOWN TO ZERO. WE USE UP OUR CRUISERS, WE DON'T GET ANY MORE
CHINESE FOOD
CHECK CASHING
LIQUOR

WE NEED TO STAND UP TO THE RIZZOS. THEY GET THEIR HOOKS INTO DETROIT, WE MAY AS WELL SELL THE TOWN INTO SLAVERY--
BLAM! BLAM!
NOW WHAT?

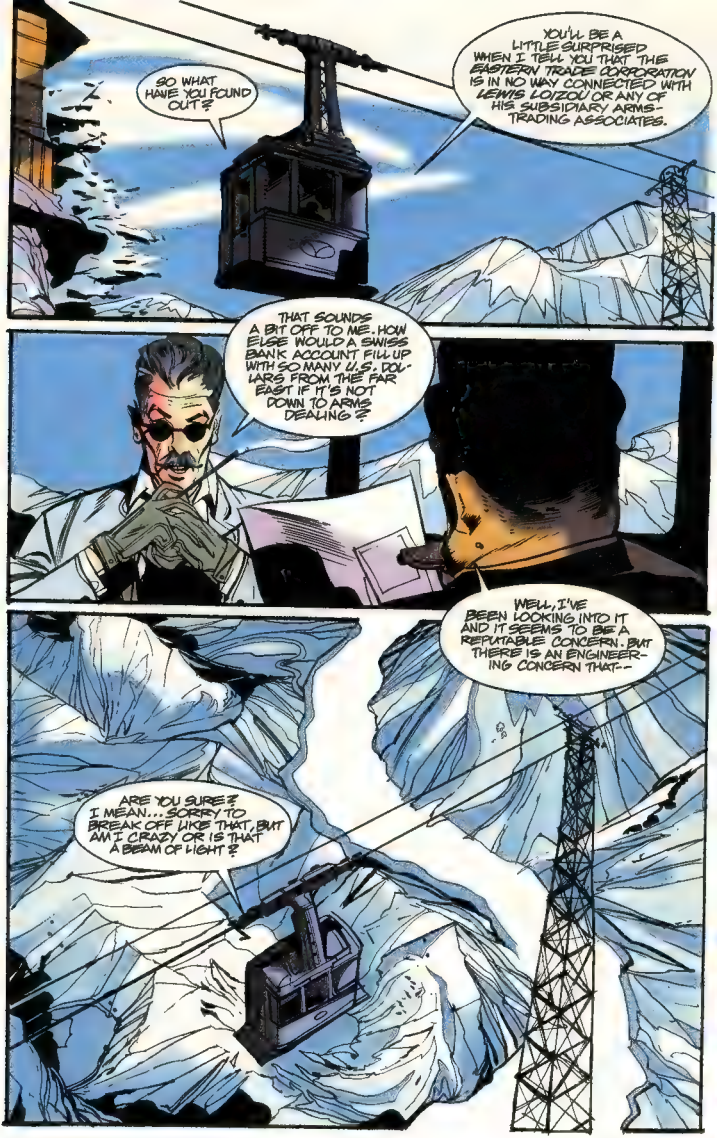
SEE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THERE'S NO POLICE AROUND, SONNY-BOY?
YOU SMARTER THAN YOUR CHEAP BASTARD OLD MAN? HUH? YOU GET HOW THINGS WORK NOW?
HEY! SCREAM IN ENGLISH SO I CAN UNDERSTAND YOU!
WHAT THE HELL IS THAT THING?
POLICE OFFICER, YOU ARE IN VIOLATION OF PENAL CODE.
DUNNO.. BUT LOOKS TO ME LIKE IT'S OBSTRUCTING JUSTICE!
MAN, YOU WOULDN'T KNOW JUSTICE IF IT CHEWED YOUR GONADS OFF.
AND GUESS WHAT? IT JUST DID.
YOU'RE UNDER ARREST, CREEPS.
YOU'RE REBD, HUH? HOW DO YOU PLAN TO HOLD US? YOU'RE NOT THE LAW HERE ANYMORE.
CARLYSLE GETS US OUT, WE'LL BE LOOKING FOR YOU.
I'M QUAKING WITH FEAR. NOW SHUT UP.


DR. LAZARUS...
THIS MURPHY, THIS...THIS ROBOCOP. YOU PROMISED HE'D BE HERE-- WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO THINK?
PLEASE, YOUR HONOR... I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S KEEPING HIM.
HE'S PREOCCUPIED, BUT DON'T WORRY...
HE'LL BE HERE--MORE OR LESS.
GET OUT OF HERE! THESE ARE PRIVATE SENSITIVE PROCEEDINGS--
STOKES, ICE THIS ASS.
BLAM
ANYONE ELSE FEEL THE NEED TO ASSERT THEMSELVES?
DR. LAZARUS, I PRESUME. I'VE GOT QUESTIONS. YOU'VE GOT ANSWERS. LET'S CHAT.
SOON ALL OUR PROBLEMS WILL BE OVER. ROBOCOP WILL BE HERE--IN PIECES.
THEN YOU'LL JOIN HIM...

NEW PROGRAM, BOYS. THE STREETS ARE A HOTEL, AND WE'RE THE INNKEEPERS. YOU SLEEP HERE WITHOUT THE SCRATCH, WE TAKE IT OUT IN FLESH.
TELL YOUR FRIENDS THE FREE RIDE'S OVER--
THAT'S ENOUGH!
LOOK AT THIS. A WORKING-CLASS HERO!
DUMB SON OF A BITCH, THOUGH.
KISS YOUR ASS GOODBYE, SPORT. YOU'RE NOT GOOD ENOUGH TO TAKE ALL THREE OF US.
UH-OH!
KLANG!
IT'S AN AMBUSH! FIRE!!
EXPLAINING THIS'LL BE ENTERTAINING.
DAVID-SEVEN-SEVEN, THIS IS DISPATCH. YOU'RE REQUESTED AT THE SCENE OF A BREAK-IN. PLEASE RESPOND.
NOW WHAT?


SGT. REED. I'M GLAD YOU AND MURPHY COULD MAKE IT.
LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT A BREAK-IN.
WHAT'S THE POINT? NOT MUCH LEFT IN THERE.
MAYBE -- BUT WHOEVER'S IN THERE BLEW AWAY AN ED-209.
WE THOUGHT MAYBE OFFICER MURPHY OUGHT TO KNOW ABOUT IT.
THANK YOU, OFFICER
MURPHY! YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO IN THERE!
OH, MY GOD-- OFFICERS DOWN! MURPHY, WE NEED YOU!
MURPHY!
"INVASIONS" CONCLUDES NEXT ISSUE!

THE FRENCH ALPS.
JAMES BOND
007
LICHT OF MY DEATH
PART 1
MAKE YOURSELF COMFORTABLE, SIR. THE OTHER GENTLEMAN WILL BE ALONG IN A MOMENT.
OF COURSE. YES. THANK YOU.
AH, YOU'RE HERE. THE OTHER GENTLEMAN HAS ALREADY ARRIVED. I'LL MAKE SURE YOU SET OFF STRAIGHT AWAY.
CHINK
OH, THANK YOU SIR.
SORRY ABOUT THE DELAY, BUT YOU KNOW HOW TREACHEROUS THESE MOUNTAIN ROADS ARE.
AND ZURICH IS NOT SO CLOSE, YOU KNOW.
WELL, AS LONG AS YOU'RE HERE, WE CAN BEGIN.
I'D RATHER WAIT UNTIL WE'RE ACTUALLY MOVING.
WHY? WHO'S GOING TO HEAR US?
YOU'D BE SURPRISED. THE WALLS HAVE EARS.
AHA, I THINK WE'RE OFF.


SO WHAT HAVE YOU FOUND OUT?
YOU'LL BE A LITTLE SURPRISED WHEN I TELL YOU THAT THE EASTERN TRADE CORPORATION IS IN NO WAY CONNECTED WITH LEWIS LOIZOU OR ANY OF HIS SUBSIDIARY ARMS-TRADING ASSOCIATES.
THAT SOUNDS A BIT OFF TO ME. HOW ELSE WOULD A SWISS BANK ACCOUNT FILL UP WITH SO MANY U.S. DOLLARS FROM THE FAR EAST IF IT'S NOT DOWN TO ARMS DEALING?
WELL, I'VE BEEN LOOKING INTO IT AND IT SEEMS TO BE A REPUTABLE CONCERN. BUT THERE IS AN ENGINEERING CONCERN THAT--
ARE YOU SURE? I MEAN... SORRY TO BREAK OFF LIKE THAT, BUT AM I CRAZY OR IS THAT A BEAM OF LIGHT?

"YEG, IT... IT SEEMS TO BE COMING FROM THAT RIDGE OVER THERE!"
BBUZZITT!!
FFZZCRRAAAKK
WHAT IN THE NAME OF--?

KRRRASSH!

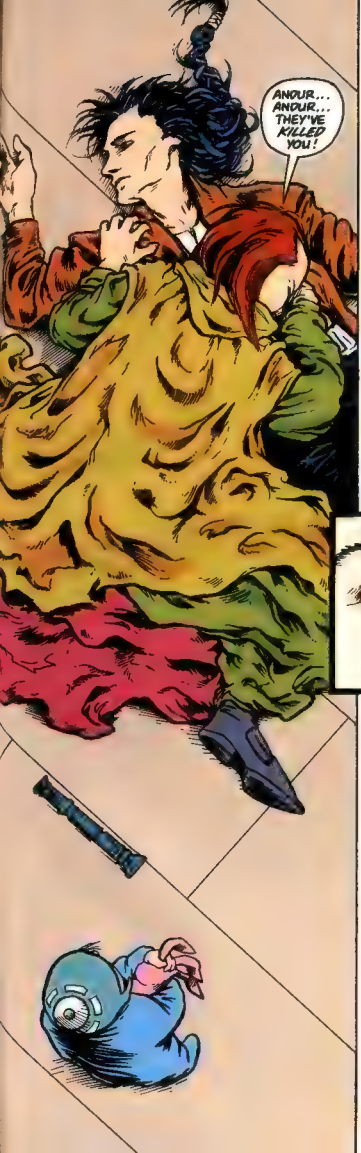
JAMES!
MONEYPENNY. YOU DON'T KNOW HOW GOOD IT IS TO SEE YOU AGAIN. I WAS BEGINNING TO FEEL AS IF I'D BEEN LEFT OUT IN THE COLD.
I'M AFRAID, JAMES, THAT'S EXACTLY WHERE YOU'LL BE GOING.
ONLY THAT YOU'D BETTER BE PREPARED TO GO ON THE PISTE.
REALLY? DO YOU KNOW SOMETHING I DON'T?
MISS MONEYPENNY, WOULD YOU KINDLY SEND 007 IN HERE AT ONCE. AND THEN SEND YOURSELF INTO THE FILE ROOM. I'LL BE NEEDING THAT CHAMONIX REPORT IN A MOMENT.
Aaura
I TAKE IT, THEN, THAT YOU'VE PUT SOME CHAMPAGNE ON ICE.
NO, JUST ALL THOUGHTS OF ROMANCE, JAMES.
BEEEP!
AH, 007 - YOU TOOK YOUR TIME GETTING HERE. NO USE WASTING ANY MORE. WE MAY AS WELL JOIN MONEYPENNY RIGHT AWAY.
SHE'S PREPARING THE REPORT FOR YOUR LATEST ASSIGNMENT ON THE NEW WORD PROCESSOR.

THERE IT IS, 007. THE NEW WORD PROCESSOR. WHAT DO YOU THINK OF IT?
WELL, IT'S CERTAINLY A LOT SMALLER THAN THE LAST ONE.
BOTH MEN ARE DEAD. I WANT YOU TO READ THE PRINT-OUT CAREFULLY. YOU'RE BOOKED ON THE 7:45 FLIGHT TO LYON'S TOMORROW MORNING.
OH, AND YOU MAY MEET ANOTHER ONE OF OUR PEOPLE OVER THERE...
...TATIANA ROMANOVA. YOU PROBABLY REMEMBER HER.
WE'VE LOST A GOOD MAN THIS WEEK. ROGERS WENT TO THE FRENCH ALPS TO MEET A SWISS BANKING OFFICIAL WE'VE BEEN CULTIVATING.
"...TATIANA ROMANOVA. YOU PROBABLY REMEMBER HER."

TO BE CONTINUED!

LOOKIT THE WAY SHE'S HOLDIN' THAT LIGHTSABER, GUDS. THINK MAYBE SHE'S A JEDI?
JEDI OR NOT, SHE'S DEAD LIKE HER JEDI HUSBAND, IF SHE DON'T GIVE US THEM CRYSTALS!
SHE'S NO JEDI. C'MON LADY... YA GOT A MILLIKEE TA LAY DOWN THE LIGHTSABER...OR YOU AND THE LITTLE KID ARE BANTHA FODDER!
STAR WARS
TALES OF THE JEDI
NOW! SUNRIDER, FORCE-SENSITIVE SINCE SHE WAS A CHILD, HAS LONG RESISTED HER HUSBAND'S SUGGESTIONS THAT SHE TAKE UP THE JEDI TRAINING.
BUT NOW, GRIPPED BY THE NEED TO PROTECT HER SMALL DAUGHTER--AND HERSELF--SHE MOVES WITH THE INSTINCTS OF A JEDI WARRIOR--
SHE MALVED QUANTO!

THE LIFE-ENERGY OF THE FORCE ROARS THROUGH NOMI IN A RISING WAVE, GUIDING HER HANDS IN A BRUTAL ACT OF SELF-DEFENSE--
NYAAA!
CRAWL BACK TO YOUR DARK SIDE PIT, SCUM!
TELL YOUR MUTT BOSS I'LL DO THE SAME TO HIM!
THEN, AS SUDDENLY AS IT BEGAN, THE REALITY OF WHAT HAS TRANSPIRED COMES CRASHING IN ON NOMI SUNRIDER.
OH... WHAT HAVE I DONE?
YOU'VE SAVED US, MA'AM! YOU WERE MARVELOUS!
I SUGGEST THAT WE ALL RETURN TO THE SHIP AND LEAVE THIS PLACE AT ONCE!
MAMA?

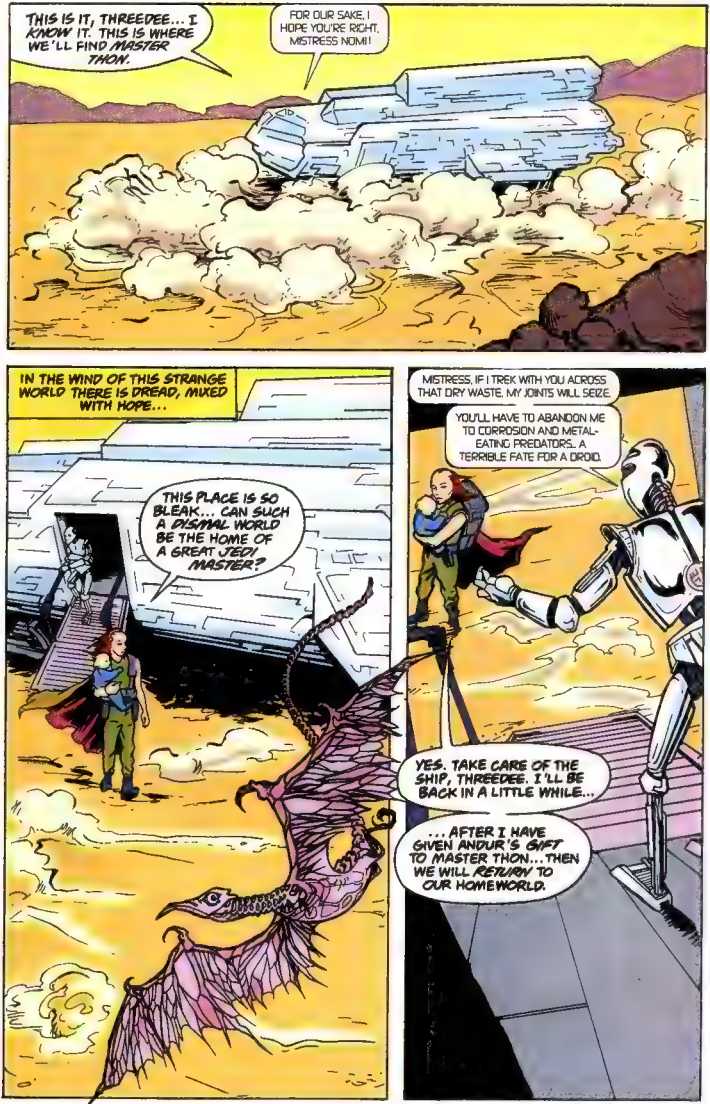

ANDUR... ANDUR... THEY'VE KILLED YOU!

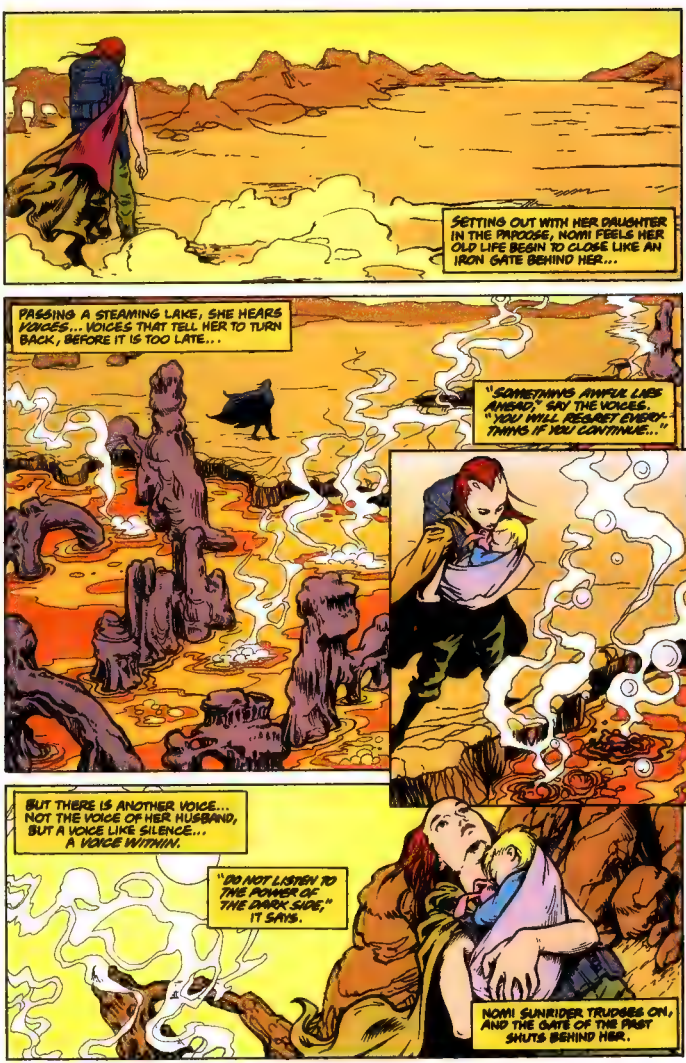
NOM!... HEAR ME... IT IS I, YOUR HUSBAND.
OUR LIFE TOGETHER IS FINISHED, NOM!!
IT IS TIME TO TURN YOUR FACE TO THE UNKNOWN.

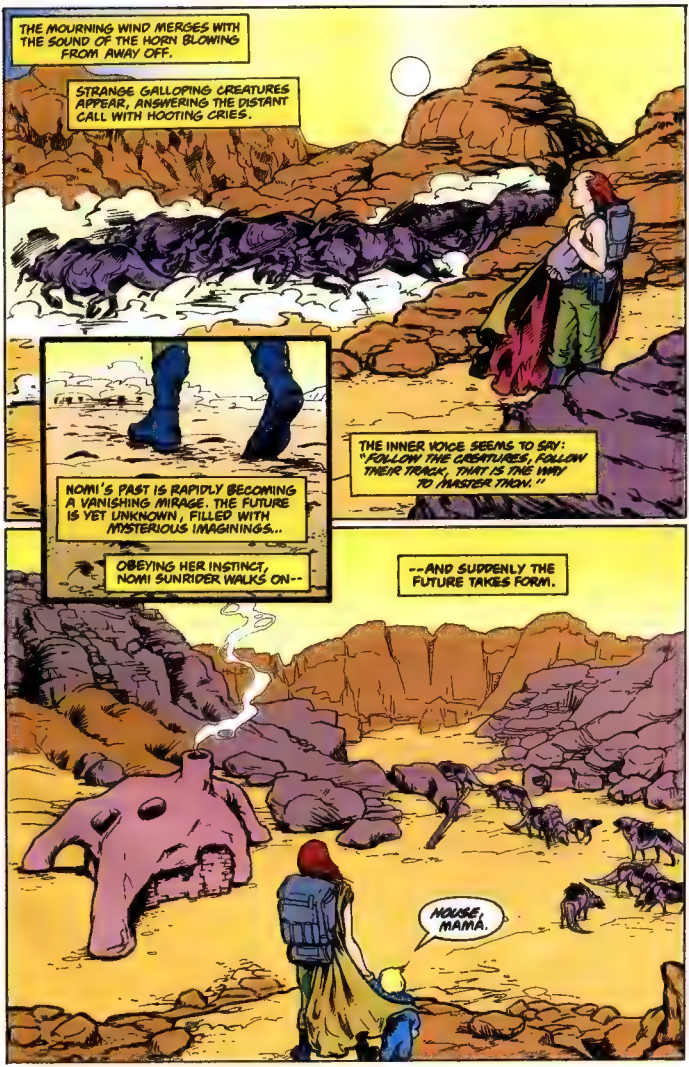
GO TO MASTER THON... TAKE MY GIFT TO HIM.
ME WILL SHOW YOU THE DIRECTION YOUR LIFE MUST NOW TAKE.

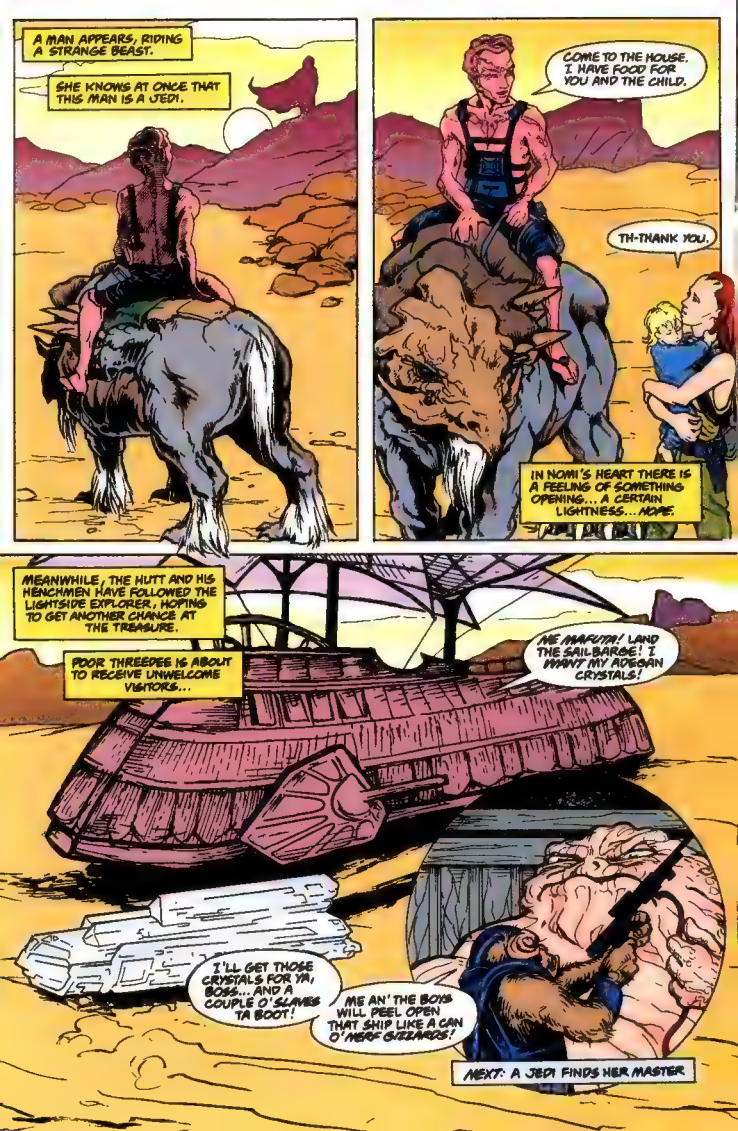
I HONOR YOUR WORDS, ANDUR.
I WILL DO AS YOU SAY.

IS...IS THE SHIP READY, THREEDEE?
YES, MISTRESS. THE LIGHTSIDE EXPLORER INFORMS ME THAT IT IS FUELED AND READY.
BUT THE NAVICOMPUTER IS ANXIOUS. IT WANTS TO KNOW OUR EXACT DESTINATION.
ANDUR SAID THE FORCE WOULD GUIDE HIM TO MASTER THON'S WORLD...
THE FORCE WILL DO THE SAME FOR US.
HOLD LITTLE VIMA TIGHT, THREEDEE!
BENUMBED BY THE VIOLENCE THAT HAS TURNED HER LIFE INSIDE OUT, ASSAILED BY FEAR AND LONELINESS, NOMI SUNRIDER STRUGGLES TO KEEP HERSELF ATTUNED TO THE FORCE.
NOT SURPRISINGLY, MASTER THON'S DISTANT PRESENCE STANDS OUT LIKE AN INVISIBLE BEACON AGAINST THE INFINITE STARFIELD.
HOMING IN ON THAT HIDDEN BRIGHTNESS, NOMI TRAVELS DOWN INTO THE STENNESS SYSTEM, COMING AT LAST TO A GREAT RINGED WORLD.


THIS IS IT, THREEDEE... I KNOW IT. THIS IS WHERE WE'LL FIND MASTER THON.
FOR OUR SAKE, I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT, MISTRESS NOMI!
IN THE WIND OF THIS STRANGE WORLD THERE IS DREAD, MIXED WITH HOPE...
THIS PLACE IS SO BLEAK... CAN SUCH A DISMAL WORLD BE THE HOME OF A GREAT JEDI MASTER?
MISTRESS, IF I TREK WITH YOU ACROSS THAT DRY WASTE, MY JOINTS WILL SEIZE.
YOU'LL HAVE TO ABANDON ME TO CORROSION AND METAL-EATING PREDATORS... A TERRIBLE FATE FOR A DROID.
YES. TAKE CARE OF THE SHIP, THREEDEE. I'LL BE BACK IN A LITTLE WHILE...
...AFTER I HAVE GIVEN ANDUR'S GIFT TO MASTER THON... THEN WE WILL RETURN TO OUR HOMEWORLD.


SETTING OUT WITH HER DAUGHTER IN THE PAPOOSE, NOMI FEELS HER OLD LIFE BEGIN TO CLOSE LIKE AN IRON GATE BEHIND HER...
PASSING A STEAMING LAKE, SHE HEARS VOICES... VOICES THAT TELL HER TO TURN BACK, BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE...
"SOMETHING AWFUL LIES AHEAD," SAY THE VOICES. "YOU WILL REGRET EVERY-THING IF YOU CONTINUE..."
BUT THERE IS ANOTHER VOICE... NOT THE VOICE OF HER HUSBAND, BUT A VOICE LIKE SILENCE... A VOICE WITHIN.
"DO NOT LISTEN TO THE POWER OF THE DARK SIDE," IT SAYS.
NOMI SUNRIDER TRUDGES ON, AND THE GATE OF THE PAST SHUTS BEHIND HER.


THE MOURNING WIND MERGES WITH THE SOUND OF THE HORN BLOWING FROM AWAY OFF.
STRANGE GALLOPING CREATURES APPEAR, ANSWERING THE DISTANT CALL WITH HOOTING CRIES.
THE INNER VOICE SEEMS TO SAY: "FOLLOW THE CREATURES, FOLLOW THEIR TRACK, THAT IS THE WAY TO MASTER THEM."
NOMI'S PAST IS RAPIDLY BECOMING A VANISHING MIRAGE. THE FUTURE IS YET UNKNOWN, FILLED WITH MYSTERIOUS IMAGININGS..
OBEYING HER INSTINCT, NOMI SUNRIDER WALKS ON--
--AND SUDDENLY THE FUTURE TAKES FORM.
MOUSE, MAMA.


A MAN APPEARS, RIDING A STRANGE BEAST.
SHE KNOWS AT ONCE THAT THIS MAN IS A JEDI.
COME TO THE HOUSE. I HAVE FOOD FOR YOU AND THE CHILD.
TH-THANK YOU.
IN NOMI'S HEART THERE IS A FEELING OF SOMETHING OPENING... A CERTAIN LIGHTNESS... HOPE.
MEANWHILE, THE HUTT AND HIS HENCHMEN HAVE FOLLOWED THE LIGHTSIDE EXPLORER, HOPING TO GET ANOTHER CHANCE AT THE TREASURE.
POOR THREEPEE IS ABOUT TO RECEIVE UNWELCOME VISITORS...
ME MARUTA! LAND THE SAILBARGE! I WANT MY ADEGAN CRYSTALS!
I'LL GET THOSE CRYSTALS FOR YA, BOSS... AND A COUPLE O' SLAVES TA BOOT!
ME AN' THE BOYS WILL PEEL OPEN THAT SHIP LIKE A CAN O' MERF GIZZARDS!
NEXT: A JEDI FINDS HER MASTER

LONG SHOTS

10956 SE Main Street, Milwaukie, OR 97222

Let's round up the usual suspects and get right down to this month's letters . . .

Jacob Gilbert
118 4th St., Apt. 1
Troy, NY 12180

Re: *Dark Horse Comics* #4

"Predator: Blood Feud" — A Pred's biggest challenge comes from a blind man?! Juta combines the extra-human abilities of established heroes like Dr. Mid-Nite and Daredevil with much more courage and tenacity than either one combined. That he can see the Predator is a surprise, but then again it's not entirely unexpected. Barrett and Durañona add to a growing list of top-of-the-line Predator creators.

"Mad Dogs" — Anything inked by Chris Warner merits some attention. A reporter is framed for murder and sent to an asylum so the real killer, representative of all the corrupt, wealthy slime swimming in the misfortune of today's under-and-middle class, can complete his plot. Something's missing, but what? Hopefully Arcudi will flesh everything out.

"Indiana Jones" — Gianni's artwork is remindful of those old strips like Capt. Easy, faithful to its time. I've seen better cliffhangers before, though.

"Aliens: Horror Show" — Too bad the opening part is virtual reality, because that was so good. The fact that the minds running the VR tests are so corrupt ruins the entire idea. Maybe if Robyn is given another shot at going undercover, things would really be for the best.

Too bad that you lost Terminator, else this would be a good spot for another serial. Mayhap this would be a good spot to bring back Warner's Black Cross or Roachmill? See you in 30.

I'd love to see some of Chris Warner's creations like Black Cross and Roachmill see the light of day again too, Jacob. Mayhaps I can talk him into squeezing a short story into his busy, busy schedule. In the meantime, be on the lookout for some exciting *new* characters, created in part by Chris, to be introduced by Dark Horse in a major roll-out this summer.

❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖

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517 Idylwood Lane
Laredo, TX 78041

Just finished *Dark Horse Comics* #4 and wanted to write to tell you that y'all are doing a fine job with this new comic. I sure hope that the Indiana Jones story is done with soon though. I don't care much for him. Otherwise, a fine job by all concerned. I would like to see fewer Predator and Aliens stories too, though, as there are plenty miniseries and such about them. I realize they sell well, but there are other things out there to have stories about, aren't there? Just an observation also, is that a humorous story in each issue, maybe a regular two-pager, would be a nice break also. Maybe really mix it up. Anyways, I'll keep buying *DHC* anyhow as it is one of the best anthologies around. Until next time . . .

Next time out we continue with our current ongoing story lines — "X," "James Bond," "Star Wars," and "RoboCop." Then starting the following month, I promise we *will* start to mix it up a bit — we've got a story featuring the King of Monsters which will be guaranteed to churn up the *Dark Horse Comics* waters.

— Bob Cooper

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48 painted color pages, squarebound, painted cover

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SNIKT!

CHRIS CLAREMONT

ALIENS/PREDATOR

JULY 1993

DARK HORSE COMICS

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The Finish Line

Time for a pop quiz, readers! No fair looking at your neighbor's answers and, as always, spelling counts. Ready? Here we go, circle your answer, true or false:

1. T F Dark Horse publishes the world's greatest movie-based comics. (Examples: *Aliens*, *Predator*, *Star Wars*, etc.)

2. T F Dark Horse publishes the world's greatest creator-owned comics. (Examples: *John Byrne's Next Men*, Matt Wagner's *Grendel*, Paul Chadwick's *Concrete*, etc.)

3. T F Dark Horse publishes the world's greatest English-translated manga. (Examples: *Orion*, *Version*, *Venus Wars*, etc.)

4. T F Dark Horse publishes the world's greatest anthology comics. (Examples: *Dark Horse Comics*, *Andrew Vachss' Hard Looks*, *Dark Horse Presents*, etc.)

5. T F Dark Horse publishes the world's greatest superhero comics. (Examples: *Ghost*, *Rebel*, *Hero Zero*, etc.)

What's that? You say you've never heard of those characters before? That Dark Horse doesn't "do" superheroes? Well, all that's about to change. Allow me to explain.

When Dark Horse was just starting out; when the company's chances for continued existence depended directly on the success or failure of any given book, we (Mike Richardson and I) made a conscious decision *not* to pursue superhero projects (and, believe me, we were offered plenty of them—including something called *Youngblood* from a then-unknown Rob Liefeld). It wasn't that we disliked the genre; on the contrary, we (along with many of the creators working with us) have a real fondness for the larger-than-life characters and adventures we grew up on. But we had seen what happened to other small companies who'd risked everything to get into the superhero arena with Marvel and DC, and we weren't anxious to suffer the same fate. Instead, we sought out creators with unique visions and committed our time, energy and resources to developing a line which features diversity and quality—*i.e.*, the kind of comics for which we have since become known.

Now, nearly seven years later, we feel Dark Horse has grown strong enough, and our line is diverse enough, that we can get in the ring and go toe-to-toe with the "big guys." Our superhero books will stand on their own, or not, but at this point their success can only help the company as a whole, and their failure cannot hurt the rest of our line.

I'll pause here a moment to reassure alarmist lovers of "alternative" comics that the addition of superhero titles to our line will not—repeat, will *not*—result in a change in, or cancellation of, any other part of our line of comics. Believe me, we're not about to "fix" something that isn't broken.

For fans who enjoy the adrenaline-rush of supercharged adventure, however, we think you have a treat in store. Dark Horse's top secret "superhero planning team" has been working on this project for over a year, and the results of those labors are nearly ready to be unveiled. Beginning mid-June, and continuing on a weekly basis for the following 16 weeks, Dark Horse will introduce to you *Comics' Greatest World*—sixteen 16-page, one-dollar comics that lay the foundation for our coming line. Each issue will feature the first appearance of a new character or team, and each four-issue block takes place in one of four specially-created locations or environments. The entire 16-issue run tells a single over-arcing story that leads directly into our first regular monthly issue in October. In the history of comics, there's never been a launch like this, and Dark Horse is going all out to make this a memorable, and affordable, reading experience.

Assisting Dark Horse in this unprecedented endeavor is a veritable army of creators, some of whom may be familiar to you: Frank Miller, Chris Warner, Jerry Ordway, Paul Chadwick, Walter Simonson, Paul Gulacy, James O'Barr, Adam Hughes, Bob McLeod, Doug Mahnke, Eric Shanower, and on and on.

I'll be back next month with an advance look at the four environs, and some of the characters that make up *Comics' Greatest World*. In the meantime, you may resume your regular enjoyment of our current line of "The World's Greatest Comics."

—Randy Stradley

MARCH CHECKLIST

SHIPPING MARCH 2
- ☐ ALIENS: COLONIAL MARINES #3
- ☐ ALIENS VOLUME 2 #4 (U.K. EDITION)
- ☐ DARK HORSE INSIDER #16
- ☐ DARK HORSE PRESENTS #72
- ☐ GRENDEL: WAR CHILD #3

SHIPPING MARCH 9
- ☐ BASEBALL GREATS #2: THE BOB GIBSON STORY
- ☐ THE BLUE LILY #1
- ☐ CHEVAL NOIR #40
- ☐ JAMES BOND 007: A SILENT ARMAGEDDON #1
- ☐ JOHN BYRNE'S NEXT MEN #13
- ☐ PROPELLERMAN #2
- ☐ STAR WARS #3 (U.K. EDITION)
- ☐ THE VENUS WARS II #10

SHIPPING MARCH 16
- ☐ ALIENS VOLUME 2 #5 (U.K. EDITION)
- ☐ HARD LOOKS #7
- ☐ PREDATOR: RACE WAR #2
- ☐ VERSION #1.4

SHIPPING MARCH 23
- ☐ CARAVAN KIDD #9
- ☐ JOHN BYRNE'S NEXT MEN COLLECTION
- ☐ THE LUCK IN THE HEAD
- ☐ OUTLANDERS SPECIAL #1
- ☐ THE YOUNG CYNICS CLUB

SHIPPING MARCH 30
- ☐ APPLESEED 4 COLLECTION
- ☐ DARK HORSE COMICS #8
- ☐ DARK HORSE INSIDER #17
- ☐ ORION #4
- ☐ TERMINAL POINT #2

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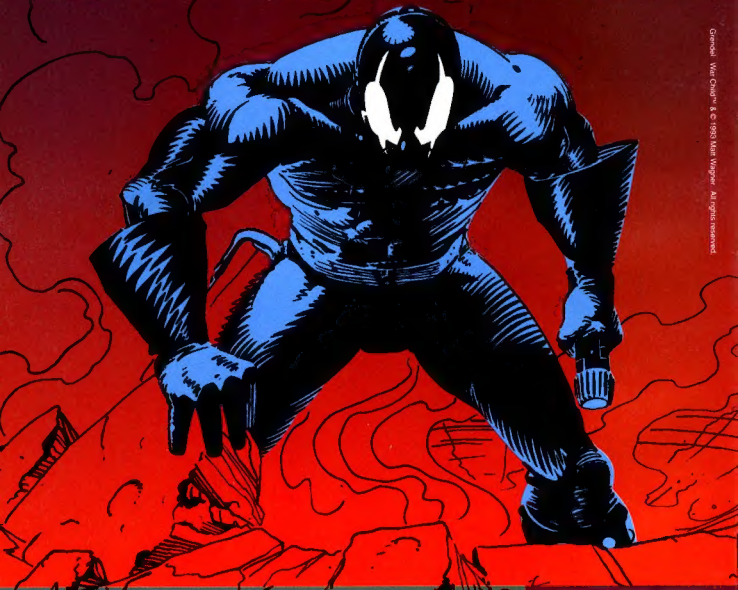
GRENDEL™

war child

BATTLE ROYALE!



Grendel: War Child™ & © 1993 Matt Wagner. All rights reserved.

The epic conclusion to the *War Child* storyline reveals the final fate of Jupiter and Grendel-Prime, as Jupiter is reunited with his sister to take on the corrupt government headed by their mother. Grendel creator Matt Wagner writes, pencils, and inks this final double-sized issue, and provides the spectacular wraparound painted cover as well! Don't miss it!

Grendel: War Child #10 (of 10)
$3.50 U.S., $4.40 Canada
48 color pages
Painted wraparound cover

DARK HORSE COMICS

Advisory: Suggested for mature readers.
This issue contains violence and harsh language.

JUNE 1993

THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMICS!™

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